

Meeting: Abkhazi Advisory Board

Date: Friday, June 18, 2021

Time: 11am

Location: Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Present: Cathy Armstrong, Samantha Beare, Sue Hara, Pam Madoff, Cherie Miltimore, Jacqui Paulson,

Regrets: Barb Gunn

1. Adoption of Minutes

Approval of the Abkhazi Advisory Board minutes of May 21, 2021 was motioned by Jacqui, seconded by Samantha and carried by all present.

2. Agenda

Jacqui's Report (Abkhazi Garden Head Gardener)

Cherie's Report (Abkhazi Garden Site Manager)

Sue's Report (Informal Friends Group)

Cathy's Report (Executive Director of TLC)

3. Jacqui's Report (Abkhazi Garden Head Gardener)

Prep for Greenhouse – ongoing reorganization of the service area for new greenhouse. Getting supplies for foundation. Will pick up greenhouse from Russell Nursery when ready to install. Will buy heaters, heating pads, shade cloths and custom benches.

Georgian Garden Artwork – is working with Karen of Metal Mermaid to develop an appropriate design for the garden. Karen is inspired by nature and uses new and recycled metal. Corton steel will not be possible due to shortage of supply, weight of the design and ability to work in this medium. Metal Mermaid suggested adding a sturgeon in the water. Cathy would like to see the design and a quote for this project.

Boulevard Garden – the boulevard garden is looking good with plants growing in.

Plant Sales – have been steady.

New Garden Volunteers – two started on Mondays and three have signed up on Tuesdays.

Firefighter's Rose – Jacqui has finished the herb garden and added two Firefighter rose plants to the patio that Barb can make use of. These roses will add a vibrant red colour to the patio and they also give a nod to the first responders of the pandemic. These roses were appropriated to commemorate firefighters who lost their lives in the Twin Towers attack in 2001 and for the volunteers who risked their lives during the Black Saturday Victorian Bushfires in Australia in 2009. Pam suggests we invite the Captain of the Victoria Fire Department to visit to create some media coverage of this thoughtful gesture at Abkhazi.

Seed Collection – seed collection season is starting. Jacqui will ask the docents and gate greeters to package up Camas seeds for sale. Cathy would like to few packages to give to TLC's long time members.

4. Cherie's Report (Abkhazi Garden Site Manager)

Boulevard Garden – I would like to congratulate Jacqui on her wonderful design of the Boulevard Garden that reflects the garden that is inside with rock and flowing water. The Boulevard Garden is a flowing tribute to the Abkhazi's and people walking past are really enjoying it.

Yoga in the Garden – we are now running classes on Mondays from 6:30-7:30pm and on Wednesdays from 5-6pm.

Costume Museum - The Abkhazi Collection of five cocktail dresses and an Abkhazi Uniform commissioned by the Georgian Ambassador are now on display at the Costume Museum at Government House. June 1 – September 3.

Ambassador Visit – The ambassador wants to come and visit the Costume Museum to see the Abkhazi Collection. Cathy will invite him and plan an event in late July or early August. Abkhazi buildings should be painted by then. We hope he will help hand out the Heritage BC Award certificates to our volunteers. We would like to invite the Lieutenant Governor to come as well.

Painting Heritage Buildings – The colours have been determined. The siding will be a deep red brown and the trim will be a blue mint green. The soft wash took place yesterday and painting will begin in July. Wes of Paint Works will work around the Teahouse operations. He will prep and paint the front of the Teahouse from 7am to 10am.

City of Victoria Cultural Infrastructure Grant – was submitted for fence replacement.

Canada Healthy Community Initiatives Grant – working with Cathy on this grant that will fund infrastructure projects to create safer, more vibrant places and inclusive communities. We hope grant money will cover the costs of a new permeable driveway with a centre design, lights for the garden, our new Boulevard garden and our future Georgian Garden.

Abkhazi Garden Open House – cancelled open house earlier this year due to pandemic. Planning one on Sunday, September 12th. Good time to sell off our plants. TLC will set up a table. More to come.

Artists in the Garden – artists have been invited to the garden to paint/sketch this year from Monday to Thursday. We also are doing a fundraiser with those artists who are interested. The artists can hang their art in the Teahouse from Sep 7 to Oct 12th. There will be a public showing on Labour Day Monday Sept 6 in the garden and in the Teahouse on Thanksgiving Day on October 11th. 50% of the sales will go to the artist and 50% will go to TLC. Many thanks to Barb for making this fundraiser possible.

Tool Metal Artist – a volunteer wanted me to share art work by Dave Warnock. Board members suggest he approach Barb if he would like to sell his work at the garden.

Signs – discussion on having more signage to bring attention to the garden. We have added in a message board so people can read about what goes on inside the garden and we have the Boulevard Garden that will entice people in. We are also adding a discreet Abkhazi Garden sign on the Southwest corner at the end of the Boulevard Garden.

4. Sue's Report (Informal Friends Group)

Informal Friends – Members of Friends got together in person on Wednesday of this week at Dick Bullard's home. Some members have a desire to continue to represent the informal group at AAB meetings.

Final Transfer of Funds – the Friends of Abkhazi Garden have already transferred \$6000 dollars to the living heritage of Abkhazi Garden and will transfer what is remaining in their account soon.

Pathway Through Maple Trees – is narrow and unsafe. Sue recommends that we take a look at our pathways and improve them. Jacqui plans to cut back on the vegetation that is encroaching on the pathway and to add gravel to the pathways to even them out.

Cathy's Report (Executive Director of TLC)

Georgian Ambassador – will invite the Georgian Ambassador for a visit to see the Costume Museum and for an event at the garden with our award winning volunteers. Once she knows the Ambassador's plans, Cathy will invite our Lieutenant Governor to this event. Cathy will find out if the Ambassador thinks the sturgeon fish would be appropriate in the Georgian Garden sculpture.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Next Meeting: will be Friday, July 16 at 11am by zoom.